(c) The number of trees licensed in the district for tapping during the past five years for which complete figures are available are given below :—

Year.	Palmyras.	Dates.
1922–23	82,639	36,828
1923–24	86,243	35,712
1924–25	88,096	34,587
1925–26	73,591	30,813
1926–27	74,553	28,141

(d) The Government have not the information.

(e) & (f) The measures specially applicable to Kistna district are— The rate of tree tax has been increased by 25 per cent from the lease commencing from 1st October 1925 and the duty on arrack in portions of the district has been raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8-7-0 from 1st April 1926. The limit of private possession of arrack without licence has been reduced from 6 to 4 drams in all the municipalities in the district.

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (e) and (f), does the Government believe that by these measures they will decrease the evil of drink ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" We have taken the steps mentioned in clauses (e) and (f) and whether the drink evil has been actually reduced or not will have to be tested with reference to local experience."

Medical

Transfers of doctors in rural dispensaries.

* 509 Q.—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state —

(a) whether any orders have recently been issued by the Government to the effect that doctors now serving in rural dispensaries should not be transferred from place to place, not even within the area of the district board or taluk board in which they are employed ; and

(b) if so, the reasons underlying this new policy, together with the orders, if any, issued to local bodies ?

A.—(a) Orders were issued to this effect in June 1927.

(b) The object of the rural medical relief scheme is to induce private medical practitioners to settle permanently in rural areas and to build up a practice there. The Government therefore considered that the transfer of such practitioners from one dispensary to another would frustrate the very object of the scheme and should under no circumstances be agreed to. Orders in this sense were accordingly issued to all presidents of taluk and district boards.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I know from the Government what steps would be taken with regard to doctors who are not popular in their villages ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Powers are given to the local boards to terminate their services."